



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

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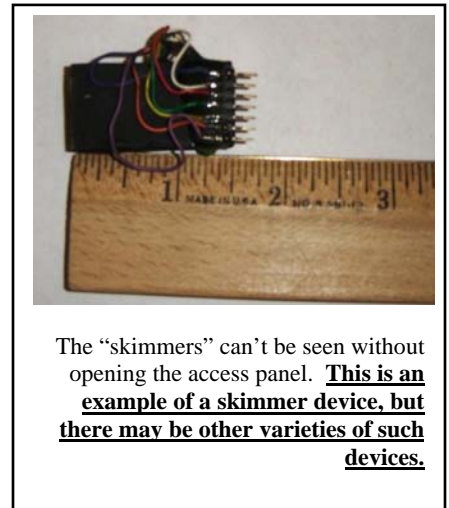
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Devices Designed Illegally to Read Credit Card Information from Gas Station Pumps

Recently the Arizona Department of Weights and Measures was informed that so-called credit card “skimming” devices had been found on retail motor fuel dispensers in other states. Yesterday the Department was informed that such a device had been found in Arizona. Such devices could be used to collect credit card information illegally from consumers who have used their cards at gas pumps.

The Department of Weights and Measures (DWM) has taken the following steps:

- Upon learning that such devices exist, (DWM) notified the Arizona Attorney General’s (AG) Office. The AG advised that if anyone finds such a device in Arizona, local law enforcement officials should be notified, particularly the Document Crimes Unit of local law enforcement agencies. Yesterday, DWM notified the AG’s office that a device had been found in Arizona. DWM also contacted federal authorities yesterday.
- DWM initiated meetings with representatives of the petroleum and petroleum marketing industries to discuss ways that industry is working or can work to prevent and detect such skimmers. That effort will be ongoing, and DWM is asking industry to notify local law enforcement if the devices are found, as well as to let DWM know. This request resulted in DWM being informed yesterday of that such a device was found in Arizona.
- DWM is sending this Official Advisory to alert a broad array of law enforcement authorities and industry groups to assist in a statewide effort to prevent and detect the use of such skimming devices. If you feel others in law enforcement should be notified, who are not on our circulation list below, DWM encourages you to notify them.
- DWM has begun, as part of its routine gas station inspections, to ask owner-operators to open access panels on fueling devices to determine if credit card skimming devices are present. Currently the Department’s Investigators routinely check retail motor fuel dispensers during routine inspections for Volume, Stage II Vapor Recovery, Motor Fuel Quality, and Vapor Recovery Compliance.



The “skimmers” can’t be seen without opening the access panel. **This is an example of a skimmer device, but there may be other varieties of such devices.**

As the picture above shows, the skimming device connects to the card reader on the inside of the dispenser head, which can only be accessed with a key that opens the access panel. The device is no larger than a half dollar, with a connecting pigtail wire of two to three inches in length. These illegal devices are difficult to detect with an untrained eye.

Although DWM does not have statutory jurisdiction over the credit card function of the motor fuel dispenser, the discovery of a skimming device would invalidate the Certificate of Conformance required for commercial use in Arizona.

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